

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Original) A method for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said method comprising

(a) introducing said liquid into a chamber of a cartridge which contains a chip shaped carrier, an active surface of which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel comprised between two inner surfaces of said chamber,

(b) positioning said cartridge in a cartridge holder, said positioning being effected before or after introduction of said liquid into said chamber, and

(c) oscillating said cartridge holder and thereby said cartridge about an axis of rotation which is substantially perpendicular to a vertical plane, thereby moving said cartridge back and forth between a first angular position and a second angular position which lie on opposite sides of an intermediate angular position at which said active surface of said chip shaped carrier is substantially at a lowest part of its motion path caused by said oscillating of said cartridge, in order to cause relative motion of the liquid contained in said channel with respect to said active surface of said chip shaped carrier.

2.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said channel is a curved channel.

3.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge is held by the cartridge holder in such a way that the active surface of the chip shaped carrier lies in a substantially vertical plane.

Appl. No. 10/033,424

PATENT

Amdt. dated February 27, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2003

4.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said active surface of the chip shaped carrier is adjacent to a central portion of said channel.

Claim 5-12 (Cancelled)